

ANCIENT
CIVILIZATIONS

ANCIENT
AZTECS



「TABLE OF CONTENTS」

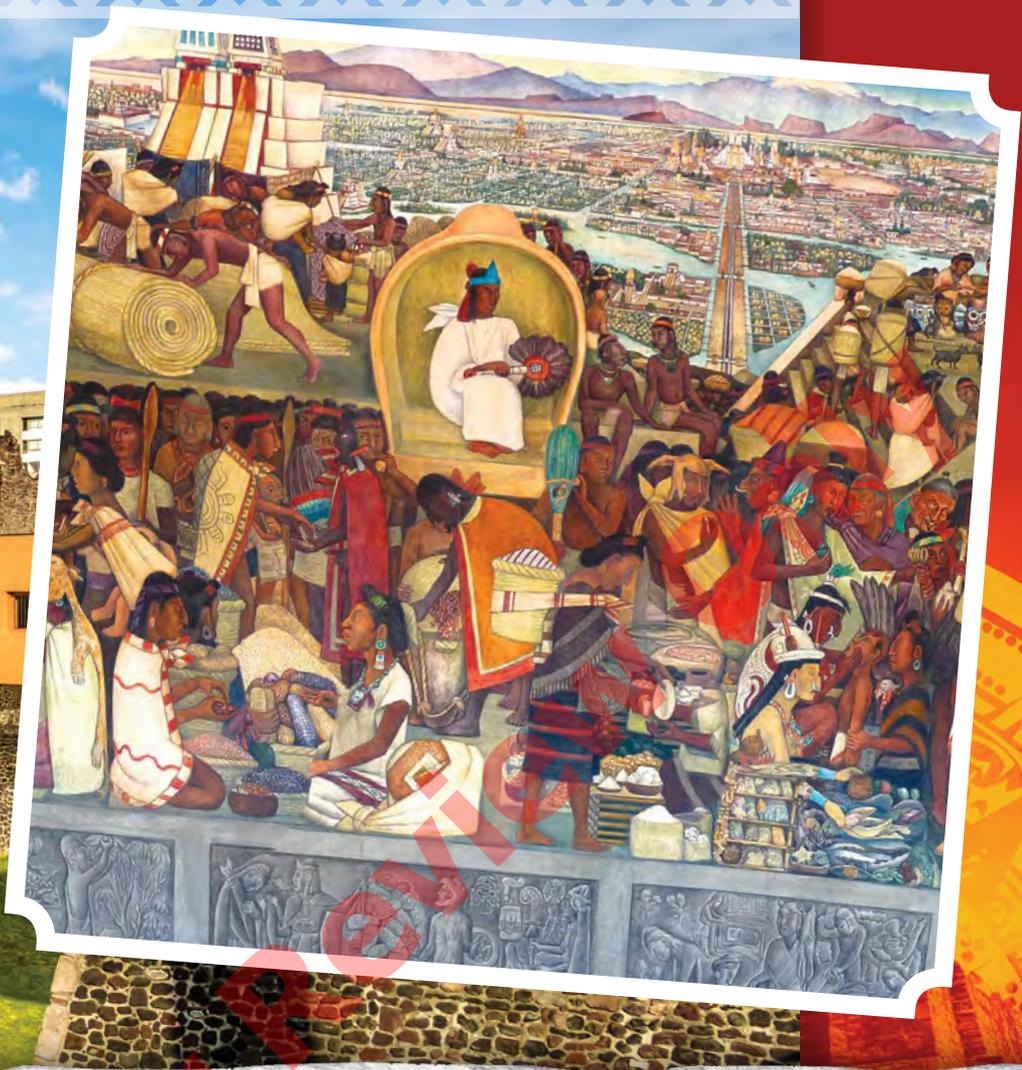
<i>THE MARKETPLACE</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>WHO WERE THE ANCIENT AZTECS?</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>HOW THE ANCIENT AZTECS RULED</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>DAILY LIFE</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>BELIEFS AND CULTURE</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>THE FALL OF THE ANCIENT AZTECS</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>GLOSSARY</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>TO LEARN MORE</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>INDEX</i>	<i>32</i>



「THE MARKETPLACE」

PLAZA DE LAS TRES CULTURAS, TLATELOLCO

A boy walks toward the open-air Tlatelolco marketplace with his father. They hear a rumble of noise from thousands of people inside. The boy and his father pass by rows of spices, meat, gold jewelry, and feathers. His father stops to hand over **cacao beans** in exchange for corn.



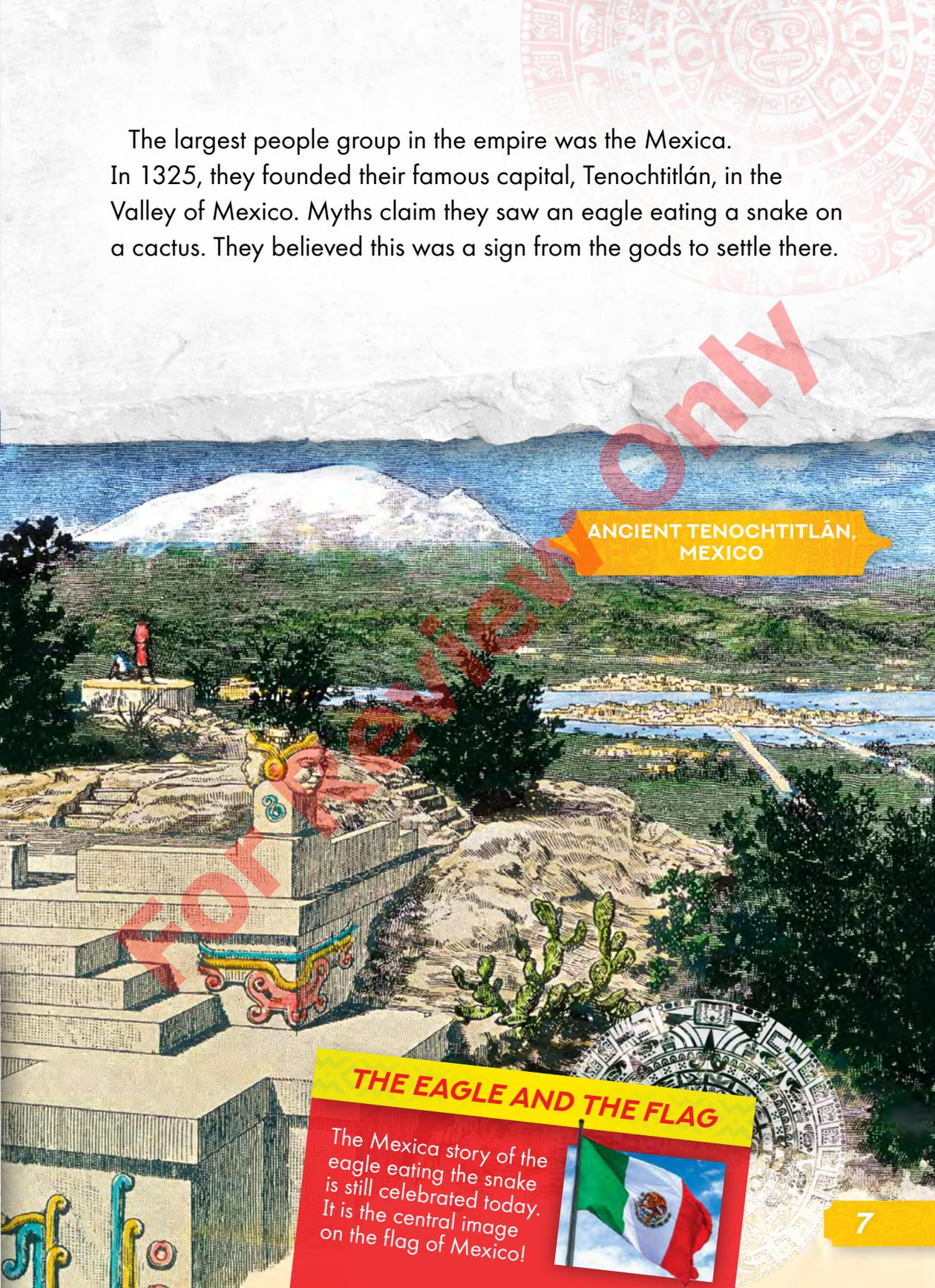
The grand Templo Mayor towers over Tenochtitlán as the boy rushes home. He cannot wait to show his mother their purchases. Market day is always busy in the Aztec Empire!

WHO WERE THE ANCIENT AZTECS?

CEREMONIAL
AZTEC OUTFIT

The Aztecs ruled an empire in present-day Mexico from 1325 to 1521. At its height, the empire stretched from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic. It ruled around 6 million people. Today, the Aztecs are remembered for their grand cities and fierce warriors.

The largest people group in the empire was the Mexica. In 1325, they founded their famous capital, Tenochtitlán, in the Valley of Mexico. Myths claim they saw an eagle eating a snake on a cactus. They believed this was a sign from the gods to settle there.



ANCIENT TENOCHTITLÁN,
MEXICO

THE EAGLE AND THE FLAG

The Mexica story of the eagle eating the snake is still celebrated today. It is the central image on the flag of Mexico!



There were many **city-states** in the Valley of Mexico when the Mexica arrived. The Mexica began to develop vast trading routes around the region. Tenochtitlán's location on Lake Texcoco gave them many items for trade, including fish and frogs.

Growing wealth turned Tenochtitlán into the region's center for religion and trade. Its towering pyramids celebrated the gods. Huge markets brought buyers and sellers from all over. Two **aqueducts** supported the growing population. They carried water from the lake through the city for its citizens.

1519 AZTEC EMPIRE





CHAPULTEPEC AQUEDUCT,
MEXICO CITY